

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244972

FOLLOWING REPEAT ABU DHABI 1631 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUWAIT
ISLAMABAD MANAMA LONDO TEHRAN JIDDA 12 DEC

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1631

JIDDA FOR SISCO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TC, PA, US
SUBJ: BHUTTO AND ZAYID AGREE ON NEED FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US

SUMMARY: IN UNUSUAL PUBLIC GRANDSTAND PLAY AT RECEPTION IN
HIS HONOR, PM BHUTTO TAKES INITIATIVE IN ASSURING CHARGE THAT HE
AND SHAIKH ZAYID AGREED IN THEIR TALKS ON NEED FOR CLOSEST
POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH USG TO ASSURE STABILITY OF AREA. ZAYID
CONFESSES BE UNABLE UNDERSTAND WHY USG HAS SUCH PROBLEM RE-
COGNIZING ITS ESSENTIAL INTERESTS AND DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN ITS
REAL FRIENDS AND ENEMIES. IN BHUTTO'S PRESENCE, ZAYID LAMENTED
FACT THAT US WHICH KNOWN HISTORICALLY FOR ITS HUMANITY SEEMS TO HAVE
FORGOTTEN THOSE PRINCIPLES WHEN ARAB RIGHTS INVOLVED.

1. FOLLOWING STATE BANQUET AT MANHAL PALACE DEC 11 GIVEN
BY SHAIKH ZAYID FOR VISITING PAKISTANI PRIMIN BHUTTO, TWO
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LEADERS AND 80 ODD GUESTS RETIRED TO LARGE RECEPTION AREA
FOR USUAL AFTER-DINNER AMENITIES. WHILE CONVERSING TOGETHER
BHUTTO STARTLED MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS
BY REQUESTING THAT AMERICAN CHARGE JOIN THEIR DISCUSSION. NO ONE

MORE STARTLED THAN MYSELF AT BEING SUMMONED PARTICIPATE IN BHUTTO-ZAYID TALKS.

2. DIRECTING HIS REMARKS TO ZAYID, BHUTTO SAID HE WANTED HIM UNDERSTAND THAT OF ALL DIPL REPS PRESENT AT DINNER HE PURPOSELY HAD SELECTED AMERICAN CHARGE TO HEAR HIS MESSAGE. PRIMIN IN UN-MISTAKABLY FIRM YET FRIENDLY TERMS TOLD ZAYID HE DESIRED THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART HIS AMERICAN FRIENDS THAT IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND ZAYID COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING REACHED RE IMPORTANCE BOTH PAKISTAN AND UAE MAINTAINING BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH US IN ORDER ASSURE STABILITY OF AREA. ZAYID, ALSO ACTING STARTLED BY SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS, ACKNOWLEDGED AGREEMENT WITH BHUTTO STATEMENT, BUT ELABORATED THAT AS HE HAS TOLD AMB AND MYSELF ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, US HAS VITAL INTERESTS IN THIS AREA, ESPECIALLY IN UAE, WHICH HE WOULD LIKE SEE STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED THROUGH CLOSER RELATIONS. IT WOULD BE TRAGEDY ZAYID SAID, IF US POLICY MAKERS IGNORED REPORTS OF THEIR EXPERIENCED DIPL REPS BY FAILING PURSUE ME POLICY, WHICH SO OBVIOUSLY THEIR OWN LONG TERM BEST INTERESTS. SEVERAL TIMES IN 15 MIN EXCHANGE ZAYID REPEATED THEME THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH BHUTTO IT AGREED THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH US ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO COUNTERACT HOSTILE INFLUENCES QUOTE FROM BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH UNQUOTE. ZAYID CONFESSED HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT HOWEVER, TO COMPREHEND WHY GREAT AND POWERFUL COUNTRY LIKE US HAS SUCH A PROBLEM RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING ITS TRUE FRIENDS IN THE AREA. OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING THREE-CORNERED EXCHANGE WHICH HE PRECIPITATED, BHUTTO COMMENTED IN LIGHTER VIEW THAT ON BASIS HIS OWN LONG EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH AMERICANS, HE HAD CONCLUDED WE SEEM TO HAVE BUILT-IN PROBLEM OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN OUR REAL FRIENDS AND ENEMIES. NOTING CLOSE TIES THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY LIMITED BETWEEN US AND PAKISTAN, BHUTTO REMINDED ZAYID THAT B"233, 1962 AND 1968 THOSE TIES STRAINED FOR MUCH SAME REASON. SUGGESTING REMEDY, BHUTTO JOKINGLY TOLD ZAYID US STILL TRYING INVENT COMPUTOR THAT WOULD SORT OUT ACCURATELY REAL FRIENDS AND ENEMIES AROUND WORLD IN TERMS US INTERESTS. RETURNING CONVERSATION TO SERIOUS PLANE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ZAYID COMMENTED PERHAPS PAK PM HAD HIT NAIL ON HEAD, US SHOULD NOT BE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH PRODUCING COMPUTORS AS TO LOSE SWGHT OF BASIC HUMANITY FOR WHICH IT HAS LONG BEEN RESPECTED WORLD-WIDE. UNFORTUNATELY, UAE PRES DEMURRED, US SEEMS TO HAVE NEGLECTED APPLICATION PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY WHEN QUESTION INVOLVES ARAB RIGHTS.

3. ADDRESSING BOTH BHUTTO AND ZAYID, I RECALLED THAT AMB STOLTZFUS HAD RECENTLY MADE SWING THROUGH GULF INCLUDING UAE, AND HAD ISSUED FOLLOWING POINTS IN MEETINGS WITH LEADERS, NAMELY:
A. USG TOTALLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING EQUITABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT;
B) US ONLY MAJOR POWER ABLE EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE BOTH PARTIES;
C) ESSENTIAL NEED FOR ARABS AND ISRAELIS APPROACH COMING

GENEVA CONF FROM VIEWPOINT OF MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY LFD ALSO
REALIZATION ISSUES MUCH TOO COMPLEX TO EXPECT INSTANT
ACCORD, AND D) DESIRE OF USG TO LOOK BEYOND PRESENT STRAINS IN
OUR RELATIONS WITH ARAB GULF STATES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN AND
EXPAND CONTACTS AT ALL LEVELS.

4. REASSURED ZAYID THAT UPON HIS
RETURN TO KUWAIT AMB HAD SUBMITTED SEVERAL EXCELLENT REPORTS TO
WASH FULLY CONVEYING VIEWS OF GULF LEADERS, ESPECIALLY ZAYID ON
AREA SITUATION. THIS REPORTING, I TOLD ZAYID, HAD FOCUSED
ON EXPLAINING WHAT GULF LEADERS THOUGHT USG SHOULD BE DOING
NOW BOTH TO INFLUENCE SETTLEMENT AND TO IMPROVE RELATIONS GENERALLY IN
GULF REGION. ZAYID REPLIED THAT HE NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT THAT
AMB, AND CHARGE ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, REPORT ACCURATELY ON AREA MOOD,
BUT HE AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS IN QUANDARY HOW TO INFLUENCE USG
AT POLICY LEVEL TO ACT UPON THESE ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
REFERRING TO AMB'S CALL FOR ARAB FLEXIBILITY, ZAYID SAID PEACE
CONF CAN ONLY SUCCEED IF USG MAKES ITS POSITION CLEAR FROM OUTSET,
NAMELY, THAT IT PREPARED APPLY PRESSURE, IF NECESSARY TO OBTAIN AN
EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT. BHUTTO COMMENTED ONLY ON POINT ABOUT TOTAL US
COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING PEACE, SAYING THAT CERTAINLY WAS HIS
READING FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY.

5. COMMENT: AM REPORTING THIS EXCHANGE IN ENTIRELY BECAUSE I
BELIEVE IT VERY SIGNIFICANT. BHUTTO FOR OWN REASONS, OR
PERHAPS AT SUGGESTION PAK AMB HASSAN WHO AWARE ZAYID'S ANTI-
US MOOD, POOR SOURCES OF INFO, AND OUR OWN RELATIVE DIPLO-
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LATION HERE, MADE OBVIOUS GRANDSTAND PLAY BEFORE DIPLO CORPS AND
MANY OF AD AWFUAE MINISTERS TO SUMMON ME TO KMIN TALKS WITH
ZAYID. BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE WANTED SHOCK
ZAYID A BIT AND THERE NO DOUBT THAT END ACHIEVED. INCIDENT
CAUSED INSTANT BUZZING THROUGH ROOM AND PREDS EAGERLY SOUGHT
STATEMENT FROM ME RE SUBSTANCE OF EXCHANGE. PRIOR TO BHUTTO'S
ARRIVAL, AMB HASSAN TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED FULL BRIEFING
OF PRIMIN'S TALKS WITH SEC LAST MONTH WHICH HE INSTRUCTED
PASS TO ZAYID TO DISABUSE HIM OF SOME HIS MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT
US POLICY. SINCE THEN, AMB HASSAN WHO DEAN AND VERY INFLUENTIAL,
SAID HE HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY HAMMERING AWAY WITH ZAYID ON NEED FOR
GOOD RELATIONS WITH US, DESPITE STRAINS OF CURRENT CRISIS. AMB EVEN
SUGGESTED TO ME THAT ONE REASON FOR BHUTTO'S SUDDEN VISIT TO GULF
STATES WAS UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND KISSINGER THAT
GOP
SHOULD ATTEMPT USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ARAB FRIENDS TO STRESS NEED FOR
MODERATE, FLEXIBLE ARAB APPROACH TO FORTHCOMING PEACE
TALKS. AMB REPORTEDLY TOLD ZAYID THAT DISAPPOINTING AS IT MAY
BE, ARABS MUST BE READY ACCEPT LESS THAN WHOLE LOAF, AS GOP
FORCED TO DO WITH US ON QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES.
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